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(Original Signature of Member)

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. COX (for himself and Mr. LANTOS) introduced the following bill; which  
was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To develop and deploy technologies to defeat Internet  
jamming and censorship.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Global Internet Free-  
5       dom Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress makes the following findings:

1           (1) Freedom of speech, freedom of the press,  
2           and freedom of association are fundamental charac-  
3           teristics of a free society. The first amendment to  
4           the Constitution of the United States guarantees  
5           that “Congress shall make no law ... abridging the  
6           freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of  
7           the people peaceably to assemble.” These constitu-  
8           tional provisions guarantee the rights of Americans  
9           to communicate and associate with one another  
10          without restriction, including unfettered communica-  
11          tion and association via the Internet. Article 19 of  
12          the United Nation’s Universal Declaration of  
13          Human Rights explicitly guarantees the freedom to  
14          “receive and impart information and ideas through  
15          any media and regardless of frontiers”.

16          (2) All people have the right to communicate  
17          freely with others, and to have unrestricted access to  
18          news and information, on the Internet.

19          (3) With nearly 10 percent of the world’s popu-  
20          lation now online, and more gaining access each day,  
21          the Internet stands to become the most powerful en-  
22          gine for democratization and the free exchange of  
23          ideas ever invented.

1           (4) Unrestricted access to news and information  
2           on the Internet is a check on repressive rule by au-  
3           thoritarian regimes around the world.

4           (5) The governments of Burma, Cuba, Laos,  
5           North Korea, the People's Republic of China, Saudi  
6           Arabia, Syria, and Vietnam, among others, are tak-  
7           ing active measures to keep their citizens from freely  
8           accessing the Internet and obtaining international  
9           political, religious, and economic news and informa-  
10          tion.

11          (6) Intergovernmental, nongovernmental, and  
12          media organizations have reported the widespread  
13          and increasing pattern by authoritarian governments  
14          to block, jam, and monitor Internet access and con-  
15          tent, using technologies such as firewalls, filters, and  
16          “black boxes”. Such jamming and monitoring of in-  
17          dividual activity on the Internet includes surveillance  
18          of e-mail messages, message boards, and the use of  
19          particular words; “stealth blocking” individuals from  
20          visiting websites; the development of “black lists” of  
21          users that seek to visit these websites; and the denial  
22          of access to the Internet.

23          (7) The Voice of America and Radio Free Asia,  
24          as well as hundreds of news sources with an Internet

1 presence, are routinely being jammed by repressive  
2 governments.

3 (8) Since the 1940s, the United States has de-  
4 ployed anti-jamming technologies to make Voice of  
5 America and other United States Government spon-  
6 sored broadcasting available to people in nations  
7 with governments that seek to block news and infor-  
8 mation.

9 (9) The United States Government has thus far  
10 commenced only modest steps to fund and deploy  
11 technologies to defeat Internet censorship. To date,  
12 the Voice of America and Radio Free Asia have  
13 committed a total of \$1,000,000 for technology to  
14 counter Internet jamming by the People's Republic  
15 of China. This technology, which has been successful  
16 in attracting 100,000 electronic hits per day from  
17 the People's Republic of China, has been relied upon  
18 by Voice of America and Radio Free Asia to ensure  
19 access to their programming by citizens of the Peo-  
20 ple's Republic of China, but United States Govern-  
21 ment financial support for the technology has  
22 lapsed. In most other countries there is no meaning-  
23 ful United States support for Internet freedom.

24 (10) The success of United States policy in sup-  
25 port of freedom of speech, press, and association re-

1       quires new initiatives to defeat totalitarian and au-  
2       thoritarian controls on news and information over  
3       the Internet.

4   **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

5       The purposes of this Act are—

6           (1) to adopt an effective and robust global  
7       Internet freedom policy;

8           (2) to establish an office within the Inter-  
9       national Broadcasting Bureau with the sole mission  
10      of countering Internet jamming and blocking by re-  
11      pressive regimes;

12          (3) to expedite the development and deployment  
13      of technology to protect Internet freedom around the  
14      world;

15          (4) to authorize the commitment of a substan-  
16      tial portion of United States international broad-  
17      casting resources to the continued development and  
18      implementation of technologies to counter the jam-  
19      ming of the Internet;

20          (5) to utilize the expertise of the private sector  
21      in the development and implementation of such tech-  
22      nologies, so that the many current technologies used  
23      commercially for securing business transactions and  
24      providing virtual meeting space can be used to pro-  
25      mote democracy and freedom; and

1 (6) to bring to bear the pressure of the free  
2 world on repressive governments guilty of Internet  
3 censorship and the intimidation and persecution of  
4 their citizens who use the Internet.

5 **SEC. 4. DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF TECH-**  
6 **NOLOGIES TO DEFEAT INTERNET JAMMING**  
7 **AND CENSORSHIP.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF GLOBAL INTER-  
9 NET FREEDOM.—There is established in the International  
10 Broadcasting Bureau the Office of Global Internet Free-  
11 dom (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the “Office”).  
12 The Office shall be headed by a Director who shall develop  
13 and implement a comprehensive global strategy to combat  
14 state-sponsored and state-directed Internet jamming, and  
15 persecution of those who use the Internet.

16 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
17 are authorized to be appropriated to the Office  
18 \$50,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2003 and 2004.

19 (c) COOPERATION OF OTHER FEDERAL DEPART-  
20 MENTS AND AGENCIES.—Each department and agency of  
21 the United States Government shall cooperate fully with,  
22 and assist in the implementation of, the strategy developed  
23 by the Office and shall make such resources and informa-  
24 tion available to the Office as is necessary to the achieve-  
25 ment of the purposes of this Act.

1 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—On March 1 following  
2 the date of the enactment of this Act and annually there-  
3 after, the Director of the Office shall submit to the Con-  
4 gress a report on the status of state interference with  
5 Internet use and of efforts by the United States to counter  
6 such interference. Each report shall list the countries that  
7 pursue policies of Internet censorship, blocking, and other  
8 abuses; provide information concerning the government  
9 agencies or quasi-governmental organizations that imple-  
10 ment Internet censorship; and describe with the greatest  
11 particularity practicable the technological means by which  
12 such blocking and other abuses are accomplished. In the  
13 discretion of the Director, such report may be submitted  
14 in both a classified and nonclassified version.

15 (e) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this  
16 Act shall be interpreted to authorize any action by the  
17 United States to interfere with foreign national censorship  
18 for the purpose of protecting minors from harm, pre-  
19 serving public morality, or assisting with legitimate law  
20 enforcement aims.

21 **SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

22 It is the sense of the Congress that the United States  
23 should—

1           (1) publicly, prominently, and consistently de-  
2       nounce governments that restrict, censor, ban, and  
3       block access to information on the Internet;

4           (2) direct the United States Representative to  
5       the United Nations to submit a resolution at the  
6       next annual meeting of the United Nations Human  
7       Rights Commission condemning all governments  
8       that practice Internet censorship and deny freedom  
9       to access and share information; and

10          (3) deploy, at the earliest practicable date, tech-  
11       nologies aimed at defeating state-directed Internet  
12       censorship and the persecution of those who use the  
13       Internet.